

UNITED WE RIDE MOBILITY SUMMIT MARCH 7, 2005

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A Mobility Summit will be conducted on March 7, 2005 at the Sacramento Convention Center in coordination with the California Commission on Aging's Invitational Forum on March 8th and 9th, 2005. The Summit will establish a statewide dialogue to lead to decisions for effective action steps to address human service transportation improvement and coordination issues; and to break down the barriers between programs and set the stage for federal, state, regional, and local partnerships. Convening this Mobility Summit is one of the recommendations contained in the Long Range Strategic Plan on Aging (LRSPA), released by the Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) in September 2003.

While the concept for the summit grew out of the development of the state's LRSPA, the timing coincides with federal efforts in coordinating state and local human service transportation. The Summit can be seen as a means to respond to President Bush's February 24, 2004 Executive Order "...to enhance access to transportation to improve mobility, employment opportunities, and access to community services for persons who are transportation-disadvantaged..."

The Summit will feature four sessions that will focus on the following:

Describing the LRSPA Transportation Recommendations – High-priority LRSPA transportation recommendations will be presented along with specific implementation strategies developed by the Transportation Task Team. The priority recommendations are to:

- Support pedestrian-oriented facilities and services via fostering healthy pedestrian lifestyles, improving connections between destinations with safe walking routes, providing recreational and fitness opportunities such as elder-friendly trails, and improving pedestrian access to transit;
- Plan and implement integration and coordination strategies, in addition to the Mobility Summit which is one such strategy, such as improving access to Medi-Cal services and making recommendations to address gaps and inadequacies;
- Provide a continuum of coordinated services via Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSAs) taking the lead in facilitating coordinated services and regional interconnectivity, and maximizing the use of state funds;
- Strengthen CTSAs by increasing their funding and authority, and establishing them as mobility managers and the source of travel and mobility training.

Identifying Service Connectivity Issues to Eliminate Fragmentation – Input will be presented from seniors, disabled, and economically disadvantaged consumers regarding the barriers preventing them from fully participating in community life. Such barriers include eligibility requirements, hours or scope of operation, specific destinations, quality of service, and accessible paths of travel. Comments from the workshop will be included in a report on the Summit proceedings and utilized to identify necessary follow-up actions.

Establishing a California Mobility Council and a Mobility Task Force –

The roles of the proposed California Mobility Council will be discussed to include being responsible for removing barriers between programs, monitoring performance, ensuring

communication and cooperation among state programs and adapting state policy as needed. The roles of the proposed Mobility Task Force will be discussed to include advising the Mobility Council, establishing the local and regional Mobility Management Centers, and being responsible to monitor implementation and ongoing compliance with policies, standards and expected outcomes.

Developing Action Plans to Implement High Priority LRSPA Recommendations –

Key decision-makers will recap the results of the Mobility Summit, and discuss the steps necessary to develop action plans, legislation, and funding mechanisms to implement the strategies. The outcome of this workshop is for the key agencies to partner and coordinate with interest organizations, and to commit to move forward with the action plans.

Invited participants will include decision-makers from the Governor's Office, the Health & Human Services Agency and the Business Transportation & Housing (BTH) Agency and their respective departments, federal representatives from the Federal Transit Administration, Health & Human Services, Department of Labor, and Administration on Aging. Other invitees will include the Washington State Coordinating Council, California Commission on Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, California Association for Coordinated Transportation, State Centers for Independent Living, California Workforce Development Association, California Foundation for Independent Living, National Federation of the Blind, Area Agencies on Aging, and the Triple-A Council of California. Consumers, advocates and groups representing funding, or providing services to underserved and special needs groups will also be invited.